

# 2010 Waterfowl Guide

Season Information for:

Early Teal

Early Canada Goose

Regular Seasons

Light Goose Conservation Action



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## GENERAL HUNTING REGULATIONS

Nebraska residents 16 years of age and older and all nonresidents regardless of age who hunt waterfowl in Nebraska are required to have:

- A current Nebraska Hunting Permit — Residents - \$14; Nonresidents - \$81
- A Nebraska Habitat Stamp — \$20
- A Nebraska Waterfowl Stamp — \$5
- A Federal Migratory Bird Stamp (Duck Stamp), which can be purchased from U.S. Post Offices and is valid through June 30, 2011
- A current HIP registration number, only Nebraska residents under 16 years of age are exempt

## HUNTER EDUCATION

Required for all hunters ages 12 through 29:

- Those hunting with a firearm must have on their person proof of successful completion of Firearm Hunter Education.
- Those who have not completed a Firearm Hunter and/or Bow Hunter Education course may obtain an Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate from Game and Parks.

**NOTE:** *Hunter Education is not required for hunters under 12 or over 29.*

## HUNTER EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate provides the novice hunter age 12 and older an opportunity to try hunting and receive training from an experienced hunter before completing Hunter Education. A hunter using this certificate must be accompanied\* at all times while hunting. This certificate may be obtained once in each person's lifetime, expires on Dec. 31 and may be renewed once. The fee is \$5.

*\*Accompanied is defined as: in the presence of a licensed "experienced" hunter age 19 or older. There may be no more than two hunters using the certificate accompanied by the "experienced" hunter at any time and the "experienced" hunter must at all times be in unaided visual and verbal communication with the child under age 12 and/or the "apprentice" hunter ages 12 through 29. The "experienced" hunter must be, if age 19-29, certified in hunter education.*

## HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM - HIP

Anyone planning to hunt doves, ducks, geese, snipe, rail, coot, or woodcock between Aug. 1, 2010, and July 31, 2011, must register with the Harvest Information Program (HIP) before hunting – even if they registered for the 2009 hunting seasons. The goal of the program is to help state and federal wildlife managers estimate the number of migratory birds harvested each year. The estimates will help biologists set limits and seasons. Residents, nonresidents – even those already registered in another state – lifetime permit holders, veterans and over 70, fee-exempt permit holders must register. Registration is free. Hunters may register 24 hours a day at **OutdoorNebraska.org**, [nehip.com](http://nehip.com) or by calling (877) 634-8687.

Nebraska Hunting Permits and stamps are available from Game and Parks offices and permit agents across the state, as well as at **OutdoorNebraska.org**.

For more on residency requirements and reduced price senior and veteran permits, visit **OutdoorNebraska.org**.

## Become a Hunter Education Volunteer Instructor

***Are you interested in making a difference?  
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To learn more, contact Mike Streeter at  
**[mike.streeter@nebraska.gov](mailto:mike.streeter@nebraska.gov)**  
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**NOTICE:** This guide is not a legal notice or a complete collection of hunting regulations and laws. It is a condensed guide issued for hunters' convenience. You can find a complete copy of the regulations at **OutdoorNebraska.org**.

## OTHER REGULATION INFORMATION

**Methods of Take:** Only archery equipment and shotguns 10 gauge or smaller may be used. For migratory game birds, shotguns must be plugged so the combined capacity of the chamber and magazine is no more than three shells. Rifles and crossbows cannot be used to hunt migratory game birds. Electronic calls are prohibited for all waterfowl hunting during the fall seasons.

**Transporting Game:** All migratory game birds except doves must have one fully feathered wing or head plumage attached when in transport. Visit **OutdoorNebraska.org** for additional rules about game being transported by someone other than the owner or by a commercial carrier.

**Nontoxic Shot:** It is unlawful to use or possess shotgun shells loaded with or containing shot other than nontoxic shot while hunting, taking or attempting to take waterfowl. Nontoxic shot is required for all shotgun hunting on federal waterfowl production areas and national wildlife refuges and, as posted, some state wildlife management areas. For the latest legal shot types, check the Waterfowl section at **OutdoorNebraska.org** or <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/currentbirdissues/nontoxic.htm>.

Legal Nontoxic Shot	
Bismuth-tin	Tungsten-matrix
Iron (steel)	Tungsten-polymer
Iron-tungsten	Tungsten-tin-iron
Iron-tungsten-nickel	Tungsten-tin-bismuth
Tungsten-bronze	Tungsten-tin-iron-nickel
Tungsten-iron-copper-nickel	Tungsten-iron-polymer

**Wanton Waste:** Hunters must ensure that all game is used to its fullest potential. Persons found guilty of wasting game birds will pay a fine and liquidated damages of \$75 per bird.

**Waterfowl Blinds:** All blinds must be removed daily from Game and Parks State Recreation Areas (SRA) and Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), except that seasonal blinds may be built on the WMA portions of Calamus, Elwood, Enders (the nonrefuge portion), Lewis and Clark, Lake McConaughy, Medicine Creek, Merritt, Red Willow, Sherman, and Swanson. Such blinds must be removed at the end of the waterfowl season.

Use of these blinds is on a first-come, first-served basis, except at Lewis and Clark. A special permit is required and different regulations apply for blinds on Lewis and Clark. Contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at (402) 667-7873, ext. 3245 or 3247.

## HUNTING ON STATE RECREATION AREAS

Hunting is permitted on many state recreation areas from the first Tuesday after Labor Day through conclusion of the spring turkey season, unless prohibited or restricted by appropriate signs or specific area regulations.

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### LEG BANDS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service leg bands recovered from birds may be reported at **reportband.gov** or by calling (800) 327-2263.

### U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE REGULATIONS

For a summary of USFWS regulations visit:

**[outdoornebraska.ne.gov/hunting/pdf/usfws\\_regs.pdf](http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/hunting/pdf/usfws_regs.pdf)**

For complete USFWS regulations visit: **[fws.gov/hunting/](http://fws.gov/hunting/)**

### EARLY TEAL SEASON

**Low Plains** — Sept. 4-19

**High Plains** — Sept. 4-12

**Daily Bag Limit:** 4 in aggregate (Blue-, Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal)

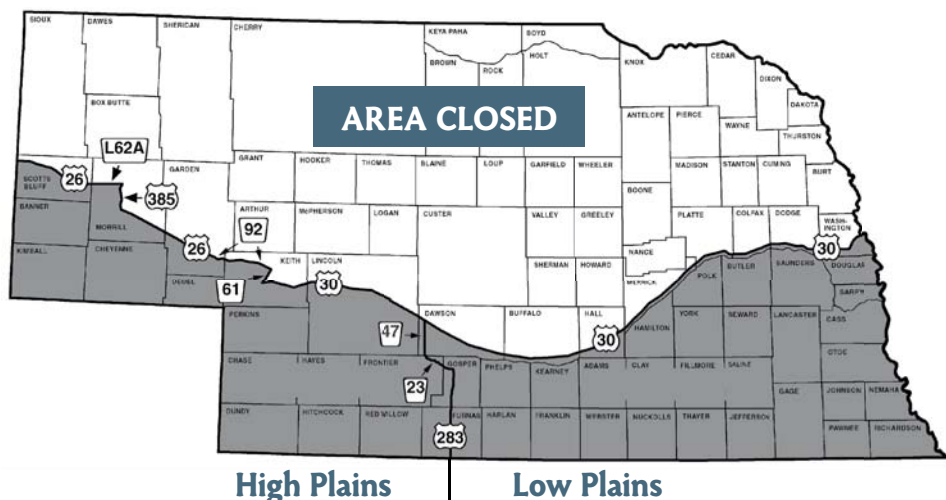
**Possession Bag Limit:** 8

**Shooting Hours:** 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset

#### **Helpful Teal Hunting Tips:**

- Blue-winged teal have blue patches on the upper surface of their wings. Shovelers also have blue patches on their wings, but have an enlarged bill and are larger in size.
- Teal tend to fly in tight, compact flocks. Their flight is rapid and appears erratic.
- Female teal have a raspy, rapid call while males have a single note “whistle.”
- Teal will readily decoy, so use them to bring birds in closer to aid in identification. Pass shooting is not recommended.
- Teal prefer shallow waters, such as those commonly found in the Rainwater Basin area and along shallow margins of ponds, lakes and reservoirs.
- Look for areas with lots of mud flats and sparse vegetation.

Contact the nearest Game and Parks office or visit **[OutdoorNebraska.org](http://OutdoorNebraska.org)** for information regarding hunting on state recreation areas during this season.



Shaded portion represents the area open to early teal season.

## DUCK SEASONS

### **Ducks-Coots**

**Low Plains Early** — Oct. 2 - Dec. 12 and Dec. 18-19

**Low Plains Late** — Oct. 16-17 and Oct. 23 - Jan. 2, 2011

**High Plains** — Oct. 9 - Jan. 12, 2011

**Shooting Hours:** 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset

**Daily Bag Limit:** Six ducks. May include no more than five mallards (of which no more than two can be hens), three wood ducks, two redheads, two scaup (lesser or greater), one canvasback, and two pintail.

**Possession limit:** Twice the daily bag

**Merganser Bag/Possession Limits:** The daily bag for mergansers is five, which may include no more than two hooded mergansers. Mergansers do not count toward the daily bag and possession limits for other ducks. Possession limit: Twice the daily bag

## YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASON

**Statewide:** Sept. 25-26

**Bag and Possession Limits:** Same as regular season

**Shooting Hours:** 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset

### **Youth Waterfowl Regulations:**

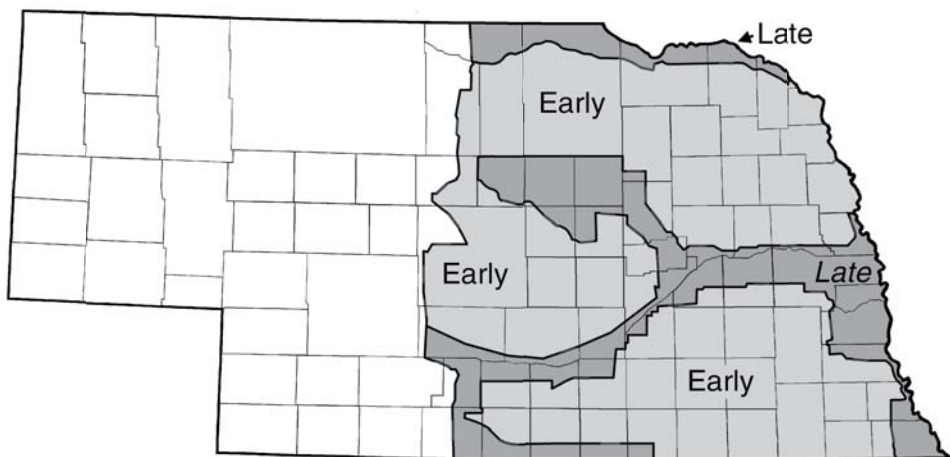
- The season is open for ducks, mergansers, coots, and geese.
- Nonresident youths must have required permits.
- Youths age 11 or younger must be accompanied by a licensed hunter age 19 or older. The accompanying adult may not hunt waterfowl.
- Youths ages 12 to 15 are required to carry a Hunter Education certification card while hunting and must be accompanied by a person at least 18 years old. The adult does not need to be a licensed hunter.



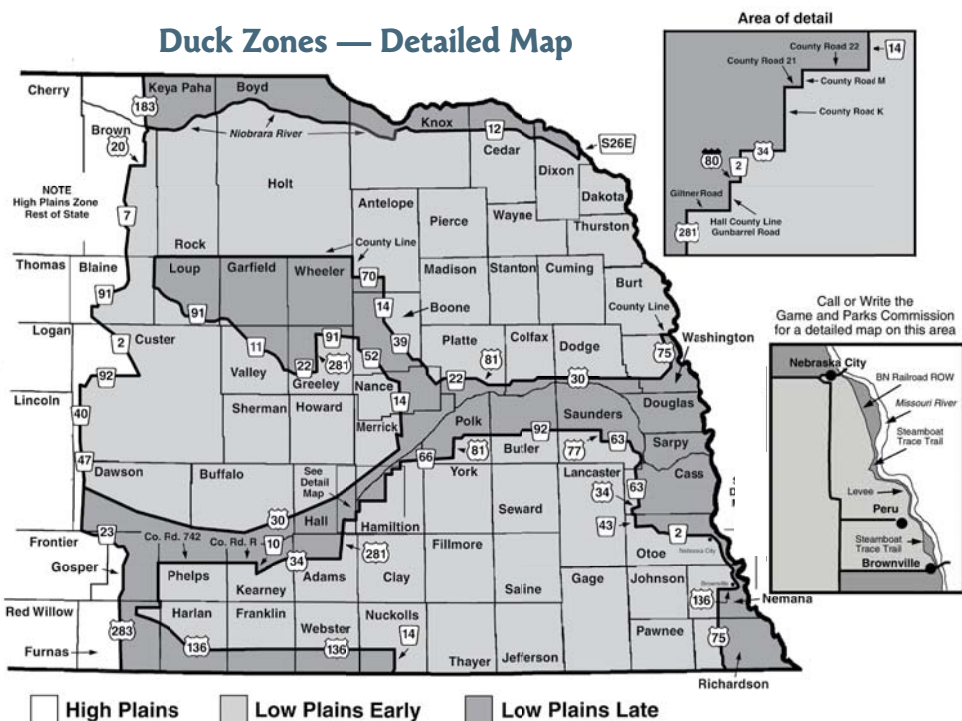
## Duck Zones — See Detailed Map Below

High Plains

Low Plains



## Duck Zones — Detailed Map



For the Low Plains Late duck zone in Keya Paha, Boyd, Knox, Cedar, and Dixon counties in northeast Nebraska, both banks of the Niobrara River in Keya Paha, Boyd and Knox counties east of U.S. Highway 183 constitute that portion of the southern boundary.

## Duck Identification



**Blue-Winged Teal**



**Green-Winged Teal**



**Wood Duck**



**Northern Shoveler**



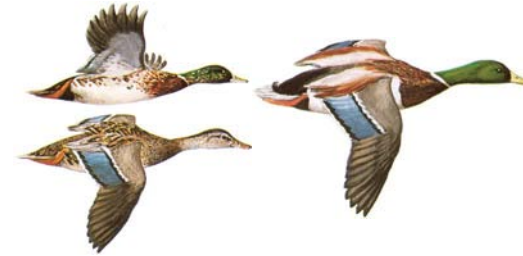
**Gadwall**



**Northern Pintail**



**American Wigeon**



**Mallard**



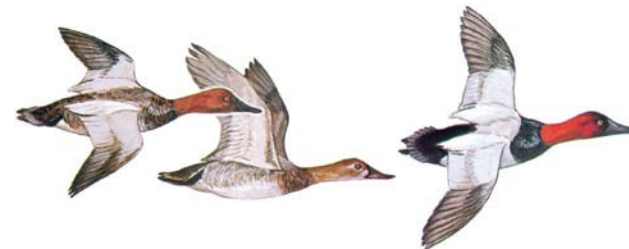
**Scaup**



**Ring-necked Duck**



**Redhead**



**Canvasback**



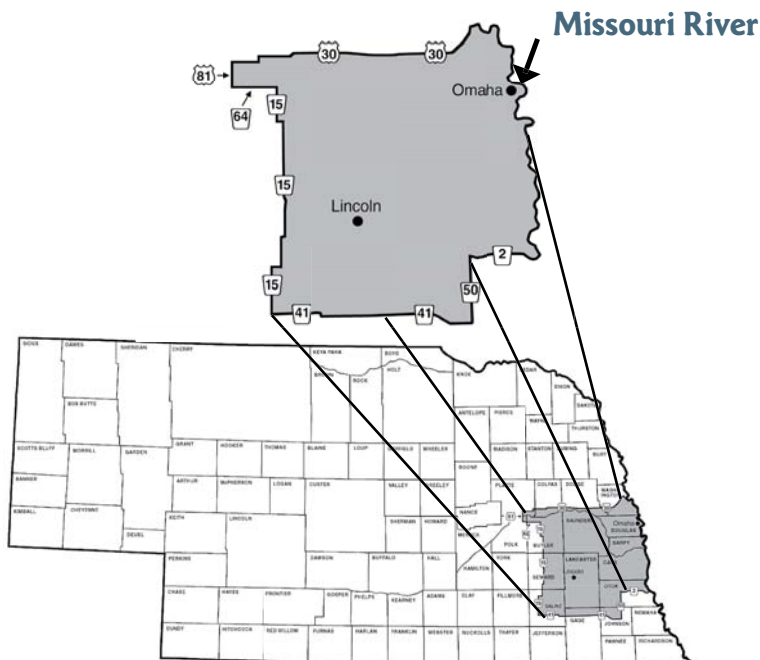
# EARLY CANADA GOOSE SEASON

**Season Dates** — Sept. 4-12

**Daily Bag Limit:** 8

**Possession Limit:** 16

**Shooting Hours:** 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset



## IMPACT OF CANADA GEESE

Canada geese can easily adapt to urban settings and this has put them at odds with humans that occupy these same environments. The problems caused by urban geese range from minor issues, such as too many droppings, to major safety issues, such as geese around airports.

The season occurs before the main migration of Canada geese from other parts of the North America. Band recovery information has indicated this September season to be effective in targeting resident geese. Game and Parks will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of this season in helping reduce nuisance complaints.

**Contact the nearest Game and Parks office or visit [OutdoorNebraska.org](http://OutdoorNebraska.org) for information regarding hunting on state recreation areas during this season.**

## REGULAR DARK GOOSE SEASON

Dark geese include Canada, brant and all other goose species, except white-fronted and light geese.

**North Central Unit** — Oct. 9 - Jan. 21, 2011

**Niobrara Unit** — Oct. 23 - Feb. 4, 2011

**Platte River Unit** — Oct. 23 - Jan. 16, 2011 and Jan. 22 - Feb. 9, 2011

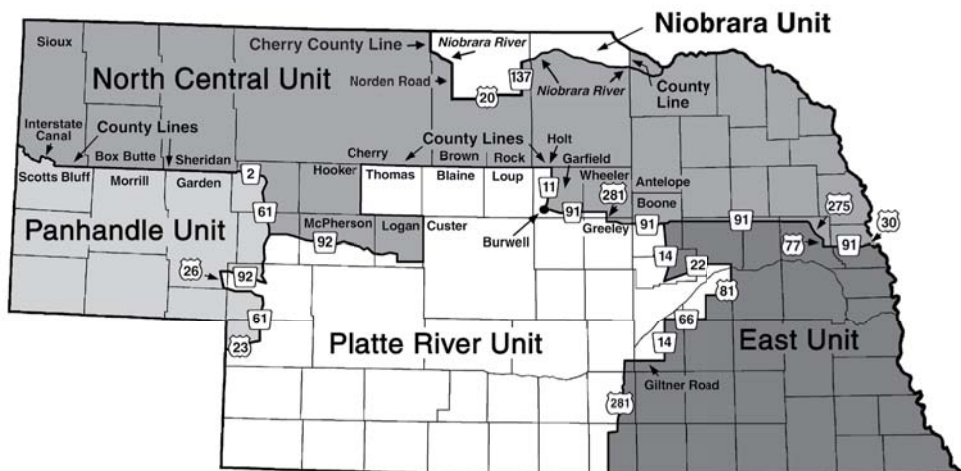
**East Unit** — Oct. 23 - Jan. 26, 2011

**Panhandle Unit** — Oct. 23 - Jan. 16, 2011 and Jan. 22 - Feb. 9, 2011

**Daily Bag Limit:** 3

**Possession Limit:** 6

**Shooting Hours:** 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset



## WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE SEASON

**Statewide:** Oct. 9 - Dec. 17

**Daily Bag Limit:** 2

**Possession Limit:** 4

**Shooting Hours:** 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

### Split Season

**Statewide:** Feb. 5-6, 2011

**Daily Bag Limit:** 1

**Possession Limit:** 2

**Shooting Hours:** 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

## LIGHT GOOSE REGULAR SEASON

**Statewide:** Oct. 9 - Jan. 2, 2011, and Jan. 22 - Feb. 9, 2011

**Daily Bag Limit:** 20

**Possession Limit:** None

**Shooting Hours:** 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset

The use of unplugged shotguns and electronic calls is NOT allowed while hunting light geese or any other waterfowl during this season.

## LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ACTION

**Zone 1:** Feb. 10 - April 17, 2011

**Zone 2:** Feb. 10 - April 1, 2011

**Zone 3:** Feb. 10 - April 17, 2011

**Daily Bag and Possession Limit:** None

**Shooting Hours:** 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset

During the Light Goose Conservation Action, hunting will be allowed statewide with the exception of several state wildlife management areas and federal waterfowl production areas in the Rainwater Basin region of central Nebraska. Hunting will be limited to four days per week (Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday, and Thursday) in the region.

### **Zone Restrictions**

White and blue-phase snow geese and Ross' geese may be taken statewide during the conservation action, but different regulations apply in each zone. In Zones 1 and 2, hunting will be allowed four days a week (Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday, and Thursday). Beginning March 24, hunting will be allowed seven days a week.

### **Zone 1**

#### **It is illegal:**

- to hunt within a half-mile of the outer channel of the Platte River between U.S. Highway 281 and Nebraska Highway 14.
- to hunt on federal or state sanctuaries and refuges, unless authorized, and on the following lands owned or managed by Game and Parks or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Closed Areas:** Massie Waterfowl Production Area (WPA), Hultine WPA, Springer WPA, Wilkins WPA, Pintail Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Verona WPA, Bluebill WMA, Eckhardt WPA, Nelson WPA, Kirkpatrick Basin North WMA and Swan Creek WMA.

## Zone 2

### It is illegal:

- to hunt light geese within a half-mile of the outer channel of the Platte River between Feb. 8 and March 10. The no-hunting zone expands to 3 miles between March 11 and April 3 to provide protection for endangered whooping cranes.
- to hunt on federal or state sanctuaries and refuges, unless authorized, and on the following lands owned or managed by the Game and Parks or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

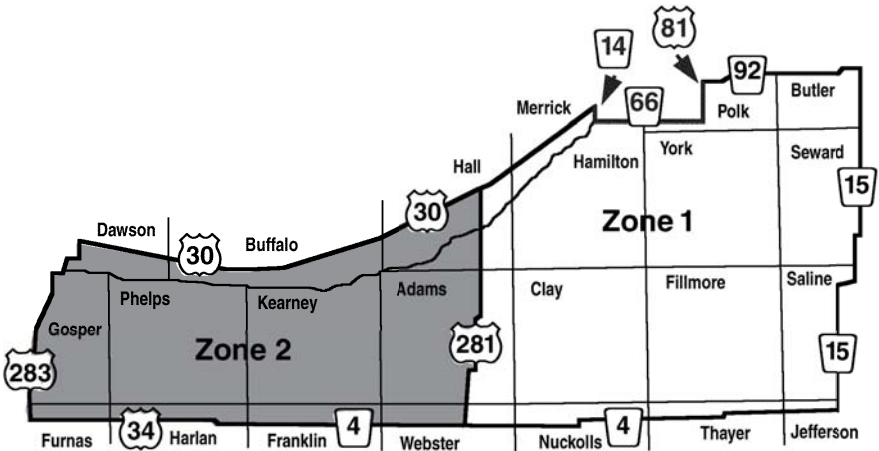
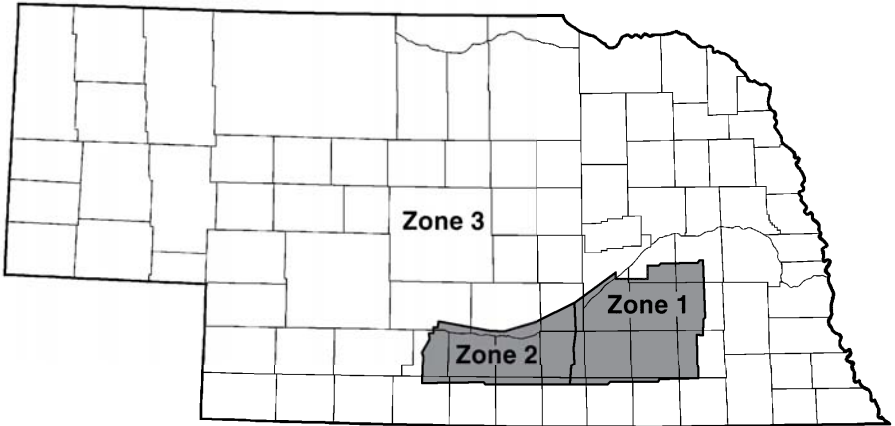
**Closed Areas:** Funk WPA, Prairie Dog WPA, Bluestem WPA, Lindau WPA and Clark WPA.

## Zone 3 (the conservation action will be open seven days a week)

### It is illegal:

- to hunt light geese within 3 miles of the outside channel of the Platte River between U.S. Highway 283 and U.S. Highway 281 between March 11 and April 17.
- to hunt light geese on federal or state sanctuaries and refuges unless otherwise authorized.

## Light Goose Conservation Zones



## STATUS OF SNOW GOOSE POPULATIONS

Much effort has been put toward reducing the mid-continent population of snow geese. This population attracts attention because of the damage to Arctic habitats it has caused.

The use of methods to increase harvest has resulted in more than 1 million snow geese being harvested each year since 1998, with nearly 1.5 million taken in 1999. It is still estimated that 1.4 million snow geese would have to be harvested annually to reduce the population.

This high annual harvest rate is difficult to achieve because snow geese have proven to be very adaptable by reacting to various hunting tactics and using new or different habitats in the North.

### **Have all of the efforts helped?**

Surveys conducted from 1979 to 1999 show the population growing at a rate of 5 percent per year. In 2009, the survey indicated the population slightly declined or remained stable. It still may be too early to assess the success of the reduction efforts. It appears the increased hunting pressure has assisted in curbing snow goose population growth. The success of the liberal hunting seasons and conservation action will be determined by the end of the damage and subsequent recovery of Arctic habitats.

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North Platte Sunrise and Sunset Schedule											Lincoln Sunrise and Sunset Schedule										
	September		October		November		December		January			September		October		November		December		January	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set		Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
Day	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	Day	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
1	7:10	8:16	7:40	7:25	8:14	5:39	7:49	5:15	8:08	5:25	1	6:54	7:58	7:23	7:09	7:57	6:23	7:32	5:00	7:51	5:10
2	7:11	8:14	7:41	7:23	8:15	5:37	7:50	5:15	8:08	5:26	2	6:55	7:57	7:24	7:07	7:58	6:22	7:33	4:59	7:51	5:10
3	7:12	8:12	7:42	7:22	8:17	5:36	7:51	5:15	8:09	5:27	3	6:56	7:56	7:25	7:05	8:00	6:20	7:34	4:59	7:51	5:11
4	7:13	8:11	7:43	7:20	8:18	5:35	7:52	5:15	8:09	5:28	4	6:57	7:54	7:26	7:04	8:01	6:19	7:35	4:59	7:51	5:12
5	7:14	8:09	7:44	7:18	8:19	5:34	7:53	5:14	8:09	5:29	5	6:58	7:52	7:27	7:02	8:02	6:18	7:36	4:59	7:51	5:13
6	7:15	8:07	7:45	7:17	8:20	5:33	7:54	5:14	8:08	5:30	6	6:59	7:51	7:28	7:00	8:03	6:17	7:37	4:59	7:51	5:14
7	7:16	8:06	7:46	7:15	7:21	5:32	7:55	5:14	8:08	5:31	7	6:59	7:49	7:29	6:59	7:04	5:16	7:38	4:59	7:51	5:15
8	7:17	8:04	7:47	7:13	7:23	5:31	7:56	5:14	8:08	5:32	8	7:00	7:47	7:31	6:57	7:05	5:15	7:39	4:59	7:51	5:16
9	7:18	8:02	7:48	7:12	7:24	5:30	7:57	5:14	8:08	5:33	9	7:01	7:46	7:32	6:56	7:07	5:14	7:39	4:59	7:51	5:17
10	7:19	8:01	7:49	7:10	7:25	5:29	7:57	5:14	8:08	5:34	10	7:02	7:44	7:33	6:54	7:08	5:13	7:40	4:59	7:50	5:18
11	7:20	7:59	7:50	7:09	7:26	5:28	7:58	5:14	8:08	5:35	11	7:03	7:42	7:34	6:52	7:09	5:12	7:41	4:59	7:50	5:19
12	7:21	7:57	7:51	7:07	7:27	5:27	7:59	5:15	8:07	5:36	12	7:04	7:41	7:35	6:51	7:10	5:11	7:42	4:59	7:50	5:20
13	7:22	7:56	7:53	7:05	7:29	5:26	8:00	5:15	8:07	5:37	13	7:05	7:39	7:36	6:49	7:11	5:10	7:43	4:59	7:51	5:21
14	7:23	7:54	7:54	7:04	7:30	5:25	8:01	5:15	8:07	5:38	14	7:06	7:37	7:37	6:48	7:13	5:09	7:43	5:00	7:49	5:22
15	7:24	7:52	7:55	7:02	7:31	5:24	8:01	5:15	8:06	5:39	15	7:07	7:36	7:38	6:46	7:14	5:08	7:44	5:00	7:49	5:24
16	7:25	7:50	7:56	7:01	7:32	5:23	8:02	5:16	8:06	5:40	16	7:08	7:34	7:39	6:45	7:15	5:08	7:45	5:00	7:49	5:25
17	7:26	7:49	7:57	6:59	7:33	5:22	8:03	5:16	8:05	5:41	17	7:09	7:32	7:40	6:43	7:16	5:07	7:45	5:01	7:48	5:26
18	7:27	7:47	7:58	6:58	7:34	5:22	8:03	5:16	8:05	5:43	18	7:10	7:31	7:41	6:42	7:17	5:06	7:46	5:01	7:48	5:27
19	7:28	7:45	7:59	6:56	7:36	5:21	8:04	5:17	8:04	5:44	19	7:11	7:29	7:42	6:40	7:18	5:05	7:47	5:01	7:47	5:28
20	7:29	7:44	8:00	6:55	7:37	5:20	8:04	5:17	8:04	5:45	20	7:12	7:27	7:44	6:39	7:20	5:05	7:47	5:02	7:46	5:29
21	7:30	7:42	8:01	6:53	7:38	5:20	8:05	5:18	8:03	5:46	21	7:13	7:25	7:45	6:37	7:21	5:04	7:48	5:02	7:46	5:30
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25	7:34	7:35	8:06	6:48	7:43	5:17	8:07	5:20	8:00	5:51	25	7:17	7:19	7:49	6:32	7:25	5:02	7:49	5:05	7:43	5:35
26	7:35	7:33	8:07	6:46	7:44	5:17	8:07	5:20	7:59	5:52	26	7:18	7:17	7:51	6:30	7:26	5:01	7:50	5:05	7:42	5:37
27	7:36	7:32	8:08	6:45	7:45	5:16	8:07	5:21	7:58	5:53	27	7:19	7:15	7:51	6:29	7:27	5:01	7:50	5:06	7:42	5:38
28	7:37	7:30	8:09	6:44	7:46	5:16	8:08	5:22	7:58	5:55	28	7:20	7:14	7:53	6:28	7:28	5:01	7:50	5:07	7:41	5:39
29	7:38	7:28	8:11	6:42	7:47	5:16	8:08	5:23	7:57	5:56	29	7:21	7:12	7:54	6:27	7:30	5:00	7:51	5:07	7:40	5:40
30	7:39	7:27	8:12	6:41	7:48	5:15	8:08	5:23	7:56	5:57	30	7:22	7:10	7:55	6:25	7:31	5:00	7:51	5:08	7:39	5:41
31			8:13	6:40			8:08	5:24	7:55	5:58	31			7:56	6:24			7:51	5:09	7:38	5:43

This schedule applies to any point in Nebraska that is due north or due south of each of the cities listed. For each 9 miles west of any designated city, add 1 minute. For each 9 miles east, subtract 1 minute. Be sure to set your watch according to the time zone in which you are hunting. Times are taken from the official "Tables of Sunrise and Sunset," compiled by the U.S. Naval Observatory. Daylight Saving Time ends November 7, 2010, and begins March 13, 2011. Times for any city can be found at [OutdoorNebraska.org](http://OutdoorNebraska.org).

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